

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch

Website: www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm

Issued Monthly

2202 Monterey St. Suite 104-F
Fresno, CA 93721

Phone: 559-487-5178 FAX: 559-487-5199

Federal Market News Service

21 North 1st Ave., Suite 224

Yakima, WA 98902

Phone: 509-575-2494 FAX: 509-457-7132

Number 7

For subscription information, please call 1-800-487-8796

Monday, August 12, 2002

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2002
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- ARKANSAS** - Soybean, light amber, 80¢
- CALIFORNIA** - Alfalfa, light amber, 79 - 85¢ (small lots)
- Cotton/Alfalfa/Orange Blossom,
extra light & light amber, 85-87¢
- Orange Blossom, white, 93¢ - \$1.00
(lower price - small lot - 30-90 day payment)
- Sage, white, \$1.00
- COLORADO** - Clover, white, \$1.00
- FLORIDA** - Gallberry, white, 95¢
- Gallberry, extra light amber, 97¢ - \$1.00
- Gallberry, light amber, 93¢
- Mangrove/Saw Palmetto, extra light amber (bakery grade), 86¢
- Mixed Wildflowers, extra light amber, 90¢
- Orange Blossom, white, 93¢ - \$1.00
- Orange Blossom, extra light amber, 90 - 91¢
- Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, 86¢
- Saw Palmetto, light amber, 85¢
- IDAHO** - Star Thistle, white, 90¢
- ILLINOIS** - Clover, white, \$1.00
- LOUISIANA** - Chinese Tallow, color not reported, 99¢

MINNESOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.00
MONTANA	- Clover, white, 94¢ - \$1.04
NEW YORK	- Clover, white, \$1.04
NORTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, 98¢
OREGON	- Blackberry, extra light amber, \$1.00
SOUTH DAKOTA	- Clover, white, \$1.08 - 1.10
UTAH	- Alfalfa, white, 96¢ - Alfalfa, light amber, 88¢
WASHINGTON	- Canola, extra light amber, 82 1/2¢ - Mixed Flowers, white, \$1.00 - Raspberry, white, \$1.00 - Raspberry, extra light amber, 82 1/2¢
WISCONSIN	- Clover, white, 95¢ - \$1.00

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

ALBERTA	- Clover, white, \$1.00
---------	-------------------------

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....URUGUAY	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber, \$1.01
WEST COAST.....AUSTRALIA	- Mixed Flowers, white, 71¢ - Mixed Flowers, white, 82 1/5¢

COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING JULY

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) - - -

Colonies are in good condition, with summer build-up and development progressing despite dry conditions earlier this summer. Generally beekeepers are pleased with the honey production this season. There has been sufficient rainfall the past few weeks to encourage honey flow. Pasture crops, assorted wildflowers and clover are the primary sources of nectar. The mite situation is under control with very little Varroa Mite incidence.

CALIFORNIA - - -

Most every weather system that entered the state during July brought hot and dry conditions. While coastal regions were in the 70's, the valleys and interior sections were in the upper 90's to 110 degrees while the desserts frequently had highs over 120 degrees. From June 23rd to July 21st. Sacramento had a high of 90 degrees or above. No significant precipitation was reported except the 3rd week in July when afternoon and evening thunderstorms brought some rain, mainly across the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The bees seem to be in fairly good condition as they adapted to the hot, dry weather. Most of their foraging was for water as most floral sources have dried up. Irrigated crops such as alfalfa hay and seed and cotton continued to bloom and provide a good floral source for the bees. Some producers were beginning to extract summer honey from star thistle, alfalfa, spikeweed and wildflowers. The rains that came early in the spring helped the plants so a fairly good crop could be extracted. Some feeding was already being done and many others predict fall feeding could start early this year.

Most honey packers noted their inventories are down as they are only being offered small lots of honey at considerably higher prices. There are reports of large producers, especially in the mid-west, holding last years crop for even higher prices.

Companies that sell beekeeping supplies report business is still very slow and some are laying off employees or working shortened schedules. Those that take in wax were beginning to purchase small amounts at 95 cents cash and \$1.05 for trade on their company and only for very good quality, very clean wax.

COLORADO - - -

Extremely dry conditions have continued for most of the state during the month and has greatly affected the Colorado honey production. At the annual meeting of the Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association, none of the members expect to have enough honey for sale this year. Without sufficient blooms to provide the bees with nectar and pollen, many colonies have been dying of starvation even with supplemental feeding. Many beekeepers have indicated that a major challenge the remainder of the year will be sustaining the colonies and hope for a better next year. Temperatures for most of the state remained extremely warm with daytime highs reaching the mid to upper 90s and some areas of the Southeastern part in the 100s.

IDAHO - - -

Most honey producers are extracting and are yielding a better crop then anticipated. Some growers are saying the extreme heat that occurred the first part of July is having some affect on honey color. Both the wholesale and retail markets are higher.

ILLINOIS - - -

Beekeepers reported below average rainfall and above average temperatures for the month, with some areas reporting that average temperatures were 10-15 degrees above normal. Spring buildup was better than expected as beekeepers had begun extraction activities. County fairs and farmer's markets have shown a strong demand for local honey, Sales were reported very well. Much of the honey crop was light color and of good quality, as expected. Beekeepers have been busy extracting samples for the state fair in Springfield which begins on August 3rd. Some beekeepers reported Varroa mites in their hives but the small hive beetle has not spread further south than Kankakee County in the northern section of the state. Bees have been working white clover, lilies, and several varieties of wild flowers.

The State Apiary Inspection Office reported very few mite calls and only late in the month, calls of swarming bees. Bulk honey and retail sales were good

INDIANA - - -

The bees are in excellent condition as light rainfall was reported over much of the state. Rainfall was spotty with central sections of the state receiving the timeliest rains. Extraction activities were in full swing as hot weather continued. The State Apiary Inspection office reported very few calls of swarming honeybees or calls involving the small hive beetle. Most beekeeper activity has centered on the state fair the last of the month. Most of the honey extracted thus far had been light and demand had been good. The farmer's markets have seen most of the buyers demand. Retail sales were moderate as well as bulk sales.

MISSOURI & IOWA - - -

Weather during July was normal to slightly above normal. Precipitation was below normal during July for most of the two states. The U.S. Drought Monitor shows mostly normal soil moisture except for a band from East to West which was abnormally dry across Central Iowa and an abnormally dry to stage 2 drought in the Southeast corner of Missouri.

Honey yields of the hives that survived the winter range from average to slightly above average in most locations in Iowa. In Southeast Missouri and Northeast Arkansas, bees finished pollination of melons and cucumbers. Deep-rooted crops in pasture and fallow land made a good honey crop. Honey flow from cotton and soybeans will most likely be low in Southeast Missouri due to the hot dry weather which in some cases caused bloom loss. Honey flow from the cotton producing area will also be reduced by the Boll weevil eradication program. Cotton fields in Southeast Missouri will be all sprayed starting around August 15th. Most Beekeepers have moved or are moving hives out of the cotton zone. For hives that cannot be moved, the flying services have special spraying instructions for locations within a mile of the hives.

In Northern Missouri and Iowa, bees were working soybeans, white Dutch & white sweet clover and alfalfa. Some comb honey was pulled for county fairs and the state fairs are coming during August. Quality of honey produced this to date is very good. As usual, the honey harvested in July had high moisture. Most beekeepers are getting the honey houses ready for harvest of the crop during August through October.

MONTANA - - -

From the 12th through the 21st, several areas in the southern half and eastern border of the state set records for high daytime temperatures. Helena topped at 105 degrees on the 12th, while Miles City reaches 114 two days later. Great Falls recorded 102, 101 and 101 degrees on the 12, 13 and 14th. Miles City set another record on the 14th when they hit 110 degrees. Only scattered showers were reported the first three weeks of July. Hardin was the hot spot when they reached 112 degrees the third week of July. By the end of the month, the showers helped topsoil moisture was rated 32% very short and 40% short compared to the previous week when it was rated 58% very short and 42% short.

The bees are reported to be in only fair condition as the heat was beginning to take its toll. The weakest colonies seemed to be the ones that were in California for the almond pollination. When they were brought back to Montana, the weather was cool for a considerable amount of time. They did work alfalfa and clover during the month but additional cooler weather would help sustain the plants. No feeding is being reported but beekeepers noted that most colonies do not have a lot of feed left.

NEW ENGLAND - - -

Precipitation was below average for the month of July as the drought continues in the New England area. Temperatures ranged from the low 80s to the high 90s with a high of 97 on July 4th.

Despite the drought beekeepers report good activity. Coastal beekeepers have finished a very successful cranberry pollination, while central beekeepers are now finished pollinating pumpkins and squash and report heavy supers on most hives. Harvest to this point is ahead of last years most believe that this will be the best season in the last 2-3 years.

NORTH CAROLINA - - -

The month of July has been a long dry spell for the state of North Carolina. Some areas of the state are being called disaster areas, due to the four year drought continuing to dry out the moisture in the farm lands. Some areas have had record breaking high temperatures this month with little to no precipitation. The overall condition of the bee colonies continue to be in good shape. The beekeepers seem to be doing a good job of controlling the pest situation. However, the sourwood flow in the western part of the state was down, due to the dry weather.

OHIO - - -

Colony strength and honey production varied widely across the state last month. Many areas in the south and west suffered through heat and drought-like conditions, while other parts of the state had near normal precipitation. This led to some colonies having low weight as foraging was poor. Some colonies were noted to be absent of drones as a result. No major pest problems were reported as of now and the dry weather may have contributed to this. Producers expect their bees to become healthier as the summer progresses when weather returns to more normal conditions.

OREGON - - -

Temperatures the first week of July were generally cooler than normal. Meacham, in the northeast corner of the state, noted consecutive daily-record lows on the 4th and 5th when they dropped to 33 and 35 degrees. For the remainder of the month, conditions were hot and dry with all areas, except the Willamette Valley and right along the coast, reaching the triple-digits. Lightning storms started several range and forest fires, especially in the southwest corner of the state and along the California border. Burns, in the central section of Eastern Oregon, hit a record 103 degrees on the 10th then set two more records on the 11th and 12th when they hit 106 and 107 degrees. By the 26th, sixteen fires were burning across 200,000 acres. The last week in July, some areas finally received some rain but temperatures in many areas remained as much as 11 degrees above normal. In some areas of Western Oregon, moisture levels in range and pasture land was reported to be 95% very poor but with irrigation some plants were kept green and growing.

The bees are reported to be in fair condition as floral sources dried up and the hot weather had them concentrating on getting water. A little red clover was one of the only things available in some areas. Overall populations are down slightly but there is a lot of brood. No feeding was reported. Producers were beginning to harvest honey from blackberry and clover but the crop could be down as much as 50%. Other bees have been sitting in carrot, alfalfa and mint but most of the alfalfa and mint is cut before it can provide a food source. Some producers were selling their honey as a significant higher price than last year.

UTAH - - -

Extremely dry conditions continued in Utah the month of July with only a few areas receiving light rains. Some producers are extracting while others will get started in two to four weeks. Those that are extracting say that they are yielding a better crop than anticipated. Both the wholesale and retail markets are higher.

WASHINGTON - - -

Unpredictable weather was normal the first week of July. Temperatures in Yakima ranged from 9 degrees below normal to 6 above with thunderstorms in the southeast corner of the state. Nearly an inch of rain fell in parts of Western Washington the second week in July while most of Eastern Washington was setting records when temperatures ranged from 100-110 degrees on the 11-13th. On the 17th, the first major forest fire was rapidly expanding on the north shore of Lake Chelan and by the end of July covered over 30,000 acres. The warm, dry weather continued through the end of the month with only an occasional shower reported in Western Washington while thunderstorms brought hail to some parts of Eastern Washington.

WASHINGTON, CONTINUED - - -

Then bees are reported to be in fairly good condition despite the hot weather. Not much nectar or pollen was being brought in as many blooms have dried up except in areas where yards and fields are irrigated.

Bees in North and South Dakota are also reported to be in fair condition. North Dakota is not quite as dry as South Dakota but no feeding has been necessary yet.

WISCONSIN - - -

Hot and dry weather conditions were reported over most of the state. Some ornamental crops planted in sandy soil had less than perfect bloom for bees to work; however, heavier soils had mostly adequate moisture levels for bloom to set and produce adequate pollen early in the month. Over most of the state, by the last of the month ornamentals were hurt by hot temperatures and high winds. Honeybees were slowing collection activities. Beekeepers have removed spring honey and wax with most beekeepers pleased with extraction. The state inspection program was still reporting some small hive beetle infestation.

Wholesale honey sales were good and retail sales were reported good. Bulk honey sales have been slower than normal but late demand was good.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY & VALUE

	M A Y	2 0 0 2	Y E A R T O D A T E 2 0 0 2	
	QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
HONEY, NATURAL, PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE-----DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE				
Mexico	12,300	16,132	14,496	19,012
Cayman Islands	---	---	1,500	3,480
Barbados	1,090	2,875	1,090	2,875
N. Antilles	---	---	1,189	3,870
Netherlands	---	---	1,843	9,202
Germany	11,502	25,358	22,824	47,354
Kuwait	35,813	101,024	85,800	209,921
Saudi Arabia	16,784	47,066	114,583	224,042
Qatar	3,270	9,028	3,270	9,028
Arab Emirates	17,378	50,756	34,595	98,876
Yemen	13,336	41,160	120,675	295,500
Pakistan	---	---	16,850	16,652
Philippines	64,135	153,937	132,810	274,062
China	1,656	3,730	3,561	9,235
Korean Republic	---	---	147,857	193,947
Taiwan	1,119	3,167	5,269	10,059
Japan	---	---	81,745	194,652
TOTAL	178,383	454,233	789,957	1,621,767

EXPORTS continued...

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED -----			DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE	
Canada	74,053	164,363	231,723	484,978
Mexico	81,068	127,064	91,373	140,580
Costa Rica	7,348	15,714	12,246	25,434
Bermuda	---	---	965	2,983
Guadalupe	---	---	3,018	8,233
Sweden	---	---	20,376	35,276
United Kingdom	---	---	76,508	169,865
Ireland	---	---	287	3,138
France	---	---	2,407	2,968
Germany	---	---	7,768	10,246
Spain	---	---	1,996	5,808
Yemen	---	---	41,071	91,876
Thailand	---	---	16,329	37,440
Malaysia	16,329	37,440	32,658	74,880
Singapore	1,088	3,450	18,594	55,715
Indonesia	---	---	28,032	73,248
Philippines	2,041	6,131	20,765	45,476
China	77,220	73,892	105,417	116,633
Korean Republic	---	---	12,269	45,952
Japan	---	---	37,951	70,433
Australia	---	---	13,426	30,000
TOTAL	260,347	436,778	776,379	1,539,886

HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED -----			FOREIGN MERCHANDISE	
Canada	40,471	63,652	53,570	85,391
Germany	---	---	10,839	10,246
China	78,880	81,246	78,880	81,246
Japan	---	---	597	3,300
TOTAL	119,351	144,898	143,886	180,183

U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	M A Y 2002			YEAR TO DATE 2002		
	QUANTITY	CUSTOMS	C.I.F.	QUANTITY	CUSTOMS	C.I.F.
	kilograms	VALUE	VALUE	kilograms	VALUE	VALUE
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- WHITE						
Canada	539,139	1,057,945	1,065,689	6,187,394	10,637,812	10,731,130
Mexico	17,963	15,247	15,723	76,454	97,307	101,760
Chile	57,792	97,426	101,775	613,759	909,096	953,130
Brazil	---	---	---	305,960	411,209	440,449
Uruguay	19,722	34,908	38,208	19,722	34,908	58,208
Argentina	506,319	715,047	758,811	1,655,502	2,022,220	2,157,895
Denmark	---	---	---	13,365	30,793	32,593
United Kingdom	---	---	---	806	6,694	7,004
Germany	18,000	20,880	22,320	18,000	20,880	22,320
Czech Republic	---	---	---	17,104	23,096	24,761
Hungary	18,000	20,880	22,320	18,000	20,880	22,320

IMPORTS continued...

Poland	---	---	---	960	3,492	3,717
India	118,767	144,732	159,132	394,497	501,637	560,055
Thailand	19,500	23,498	25,730	985,780	1,188,800	1,272,426
Vietnam	---	---	---	39,440	45,116	50,076
China, Mainland	21,750	31,248	37,358	1,514,547	1,595,125	1,741,413
New Zealand	1,950	7,800	8,128	1,950	7,800	8,128
TOTAL	1,337,902	2,169,611	2,255,194	11,863,240	17,556,865	18,167,385

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - EXTRA LIGHT AMBER

Canada	27,327	50,204	51,108	374,111	593,947	597,291
Mexico	94,043	158,597	167,643	411,103	596,832	626,573
Chile	96,173	158,235	163,198	483,148	698,086	725,582
Brazil	137,940	194,533	208,399	275,522	387,775	412,233
Uruguay	39,376	56,531	58,074	469,093	669,223	688,069
Argentina	---	---	---	119,715	144,298	152,237
Spain	20,880	32,431	33,131	20,880	32,431	33,131
Greece	---	---	---	1,032	4,718	4,861
India	---	---	---	80,752	101,177	105,483
Thailand	39,000	46,995	51,408	1,614,140	1,890,420	2,077,559
Vietnam	1,327,680	1,497,763	1,583,617	2,145,480	2,408,900	2,334,802
China	39,440	39,243	43,621	1,006,542	1,003,098	1,109,468
Australia	39,440	46,408	51,132	118,320	141,423	153,887
TOTAL	1,861,299	2,280,940	2,411,331	7,119,838	8,672,328	9,241,176

NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - - LIGHT AMBER

Canada	17,208	50,514	50,814	120,031	233,758	235,688
Mexico	630,772	993,626	1,027,221	3,491,245	4,678,198	4,881,292
Guatemala	38,000	64,222	68,745	91,120	140,351	149,615
Peru	21,542	49,943	20,943	61,333	82,042	86,242
Chile	330,912	504,326	523,185	1,140,400	1,625,510	1,721,487
Brazil	201,100	26,056	27,595	470,750	590,408	633,880
Uruguay	502,410	860,929	888,531	3,818,153	5,651,951	5,907,814
France	---	---	---	411	2,031	2,212
Germany	37,000	53,730	54,146	76,715	122,243	129,478
Switzerland	18,850	29,965	30,561	37,700	54,275	56,185
Romania	2,370	2,370	2,625	21,370	26,884	27,141
Bulgaria	---	---	---	20,233	26,424	26,426
India	223,811	304,287	329,530	759,131	965,157	1,071,350
Thailand	---	---	---	1,477,368	1,751,101	1,831,679
Vietnam	2,412,690	2,974,641	3,227,045	4,788,965	5,618,373	6,120,031
China	138,040	134,687	139,956	4,209,102	4,031,108	4,356,496
Hong Kong	---	---	---	37,120	41,203	45,657
Taiwan	---	---	---	2,700	5,615	5,923
Australia	720,640	904,305	993,687	1,345,484	1,674,118	1,806,225
New Zealand	---	---	---	600	3,806	3,865
TOTAL	4,383,436	7,281,641	7,759,016	22,229,822	27,672,591	29,463,470

IMPORTS continued...***NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED***

Canada	104,081	163,444	164,369	367,001	532,858	535,904
Mexico	612,413	1,143,318	1,160,723	857,681	1,482,677	1,521,982
Dom. Republic	---	---	---	19,998	33,840	35,481
Brazil	---	---	---	77,800	93,909	103,305
Argentina	4,308	8,367	10,753	148,345	164,977	173,536
France	500	2,223	2,473	1,998	12,399	14,399
Australia	2,364	14,020	15,279	2,364	14,020	15,279
Switzerland	1,958	13,876	14,451	7,829	55,506	57,800
Poland	1,080	2,634	2,946	1,080	2,634	2,946
Italy	---	---	---	15,487	13,370	14,372
Greece	---	---	---	375	3,000	3,279
Thailand	---	---	---	19,720	26,961	44,214
China	---	---	---	59,160	49,298	56,903
Hong Kong	---	---	---	3,906	5,147	6,397
Taiwan	1,584	7,678	7,839	4,694	21,237	21,898
Australia	---	---	---	324,880	403,290	430,947

TOTAL	728,288	1,355,560	1,378,923	1,911,318	2,915,123	3,038,642
--------------	----------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------
